App. Ser. No.: 09/770,811 Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920000266US1

PS Ref. No.: IBM2K0266

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated March 20, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on June 20, 2006. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-37 are pending in the application. Claims 1-37 remain pending following entry of this response. Claims 12-21 have been amended. The claims have been amended to recite a "computer-readable storage medium". Support for the subject matter of the amendment can be found in the specification at least, for example, at Pg. 4, Lines 32 to Pg. 5, Line 8. Applicant submits that the amendments and new claims do not introduce new matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 12-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. As described above, claims 12-21 have been amended to recite a "computer-readable storage medium" and Support for the subject matter of the amendment can be found in the specification at least, for example, at Pg. 4, Lines 32 to Pg. 5, Line 8. With respect to the Examiner's previously stated argument that the claimed subject matter is not "concrete", Applicants respectfully submit that the argument is obviated in light of the present amendments. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicates in the "Summary of the Office Action" that claims 1-11 and 22-37 are allowable. The Examiner also indicates that claims 1-3, 5-11, and 22-37 are allowable in the section of the Office Action titled "Allowable Subject Matter" (Pg.4, Para. 1). As no rejection of Claim 4 is provided, Applicants presume that Claim 4 is allowable as suggested by the "Summary of the Office Action".

App. Ser. No.: 09/770,811 Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920000266US1

PS Ref. No.: IBM2K0266

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the claims be allowed.

If the Examiner believes any issues remain that prevent this application from going to issue, the Examiner is strongly encouraged to contact Gero McClellan, attorney of record, at (336) 643-3065, to discuss strategies for moving prosecution forward toward allowance.

Respectfully submitted, and S-signed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.4,

/Gero G. McClellan, Reg. No. 44,227/ Gero G. McClellan Registration No. 44,227 PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P. 3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500 Houston, TX 77056 Telephone: (713) 623-4844 Facsimile: (713) 623-4846

Attorney for Applicant(s)